

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13693

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: ENRILE REQUESTS LEAVE OF ABSENCE

REF: MANILA 13617

SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ENRILE WILL GO ABROAD FOR SHORT TIME WHILE INVESTIGATION OF HOMICIDE INVOLVING HIS SON PROCEEDS. FATHER OF VICTIM KILLED BY ENRILE, JR.'S DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SECURITY MAN HAS REQUESTED PRESIDENT TO PERMIT MILITARY, NOT CIVILIAN, AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE CASE. ENRILE HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HIS SON DID NOT REPEAT NOT KILL VICTIM; THAT HE (ENRILE) PLANS BE OUT OF COUNTRY FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS; AND THAT WHEN HE RETURNS EVERYTHING WILL BE IN ORDER. MANILA IS RIFE WITH RUMORS SUGGESTING ENRILE HAS SOMHOW LOST PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENCE. EVEN IF HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION TURNS OUT AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ANTICIPATES, ENRILE'S PRESTIGE WILL BE DIMINISHED AND DOUBTSABOUT HIS STANDING WITH MARCOS MAY PERSIST. END SUMMARY.

1. SEPT. 28 PRESS PUBLISHED LETTER SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE WROTE PRESIDENT MARCOS ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO TAKE LEAVE OF ABSENCE ABROAD UNTIL INVESTIGATION OF HOMICIDE IN WHICH HIS SON INVOLVED (PARA. 3
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REFTEL) CONCLUDED. SEPT. 29 PRESS REPORTS FATHER (COM-

MANDER ERNESTO LUCAS) OF 19-YEAR-OLD YOUTH SLAIN BY ENRILE, JR.'S BODYGUARD SEPT. 20 SENT CABLE TO MARCOS WAIVING "PRIVILEGE" OF CIVILIAN INVESTIGATION AND ASKING THAT MILITARY "VINDICATE THE INJUSTICE COMMITTED AGAINST MY SON". LUCAS SAID HE AND HIS WIFE "HAVE FAITH IN THE ESTABLISHMENT" AS WELL AS IN INTEGRITY AND SINCERITY OF DEFENSE SECRETARY. LUCAS'S TELEGRAM REPORTEDLY ADVERTED TO "MANY SPECULATIONS AND WILD RUMORS GOING AROUND" AND SUGGESTED PEOPLE WERE "TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION WHICH HAS ARISEN FROM THE CASE.

2. DURING INTERVIEW WITH REPORTER AT MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR US TO RECEIVE AN AWARD FROM US MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, LUCAS EXPRESSED HOPE HIS DEPARTURE WOULD NOT BE MIS-INTERPRETED IN VIEW OF ENRILE'S REQUEST TO GO ABROAD. LUCAS SHOWED PRESS LETTER DATED AUGUST 28 FROM USMMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INFORMING HIM OF AWARD.

3. FACTS IN LUCAS HOMICIDE APPEARS TO BE AS FOLLOWS: ON SEPT. 20 YOUNG LUCAS ESCORTED HIS SISTER TO PARTY IN SAN LORENZO VILLAGE IN MAKATI AT WHICH ENRILE, JR., PRESENT. LUCAS REPORTEDLY ASKED TO BE ADMITTED AS WELL BUT WAS TOLD PARTY PRIVATE. LUCAS AND THREE COMPANIONS LATER RETURNED TO PICK UP LUCAS'S SISTER. DURING UNEX-PLAINED ALTERCATION, LUCAS WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD BY ENRILE, JR.'S, SECURITY GUARD. HE DIED FIVE HOURS LATER.

4. SECRETARY ENRILE TOLD AMBASSADOR SEPT. 29 THAT HIS SON HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN HOMICIDE AND THAT DND SECURITY GUARD HAD SHOT YOUNG LUCAS AFTER BEING HARRASSED BY HIM. ENRILE SAID HE WOULD GO ABORAD FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS (PROBABLY TO HONG KONG) AND THAT HE EXPECTED INVESTIGATION WOULD BE CONCLUDED SATISFACTORILY ON HIS RETURN.

5. MANILA RIFE WITH RUMORS AS TO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED AND WITH SPECULATION ON MARCOS'S MOTIVES IN ALLOWING CASE TO BE HANDLED AS IT HAS. SOME MAINTAIN ENRILE, JR., WAS DRUNK AND ACTUALLY SHOT LUCAS OR ORDERED HIS SECURITY, GUARD, ALSO DRUNK, TO SHOOT HIM. SPECULATION ON PRESI-
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DENT'S MOTIVE FOR ALLOWING ENRILE GO ABROAD VARIES. SECRETARY MELCHOR HAS SUGGESTED PRESIDENT BECAME FURIOUS WHEN HE THOUGHT ENRILE RELEASED DETAILS OF FORBES PARK RAPE CASE (SEE REFTEL) TO TAKE HEAT OFF HIS SON AND THAT "SOME PEOPLE" FELT ENRILE SHOULD GO ABROAD UNTIL CASE RESOLVED. SOME SAY ENRILE SAW IMPRISONED SENATOR AQUINO THREE TIMES WITHIN LAST FEW WEEKS AND THAT THIS "INFURIATED" MARCOS. ANTOHER STORY HAS IT THAT SOME OF

ENRILE'S CABINET COLLEAGUES HAVE KNIVES OUT FOR HIM.

6. COMMENT: THOUGH DETAILS OF HOMICIDE CASE STILL OBSCURE AND ITS ULTIMATE DISPOSITION DOUBTFUL, ENRILE'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR SUGGEST THAT HE FULLY EXPECT HIS SON WILL BE CLEARED. BUT CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY CASE HAS GENERATED IS DECIDEDLY UNFAVORABLE TO ENRILE PERSONALLY AND TO NEW SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. EVEN ENRILE PARTISANS ARE ASKING WHY HIS SON HAD DND BODYGUARD, SOMETHING QUITE COMMON IN OLD SOCIETY BUT SUPPOSEDLY ALIEN TO NEW DEFENSE SECRETARY'S TRAVALS COME AT TIME WHEN PEOPLE EXPECTING "OTHER SHOE TO DROP," I.E., PRESIDENT TO PURGE MILITARY. HOW HIS TRAVALS MIGHT AFFECT SUCH A PURGE (SHOULD IT TAKE PLACE) IS UNCERTAIN, AS IS WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, MRS. MARCOS (A WELL-KNOWN ENRILE OPPONENT) MAY BE PLAYING IN CURRENT IMBROGLIO. IN ANY EVENT, HIS SON'S CONNECTION WITH HOMICIDE HAS DIMINISHED ENRILE'S PRESTIGE AND RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS FUTURE STANDING WITH PRESIDENT. SULLIVAN

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